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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,791	10/30/2003	Joseph Schlegelmann	46107-0087	8130
57444	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS HOLDINGS, LLC c/o MACMILLAN SOBANSKI & TODD One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor 720 Water Street Toledo, OH 43604-1853			BINDA, GREGORY JOHN	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3679		
DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/696,791	SCHLEGELMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Greg Binda	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-26 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 8-26 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on March 17, 2005.

Drawings

3. The replacement drawings filed October 28, 2005 are objected to because Fig. 3A fails to include the changes made of record in the replacement drawings filed July 1, 2005.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because at page 11, line 1, an incorrect reference numeral is used to identify the stakes 44.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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6. Claims 1-3 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant has not pointed out where the following limitations are supported, nor does there appear to be a written description of the limitations in the application as originally filed.

- a. Claim 1, line 7: "removal of the stake grooves". To the contrary, at page 8, line 5 the specification teaches that the stake grooves 46 remain in (i.e. are not removed from) the universal joint.
- b. Claim 1, line 7: "a space" produced by "removal of the stake grooves [46]".
- c. Claim 1, lines 11 & 12: "the spacer being located . . . in said space [produced by removal of the stake grooves]".

7. Claims 1-3 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 1, lines 7 & 12 recites that the claimed invention includes "a space" created by "removal of the stake grooves". The specification fails to teach or suggest how "removal" of the stake grooves 46 creates a space. To the contrary, it would appear that "removal" of the grooves 46 would require that they be filled in. Such filling would eliminate the grooves (as well as their space), not the create a new space.

8. Claims 1-3 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1, lines 7 & 12 recites that the claimed invention includes “a space” created by “removal of the stake grooves [46]”. It is not clear how removing the grooves would *create* such a space since such removal would require the grooves to be filled in.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. Claims 1-3 & 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Girquis, US 3,881,324. Figs. 1 & 2 show a universal joint comprising a yoke (see col. 3, line 32) including a leg 6 having an inboard surface and an outboard surface with an aperture (see “bores” in col. 3, line 31) extending between the inboard and outboard surfaces, the aperture includes an annular groove (see also “a notch” in col. 3, line 66). Figs. 1 & 2 show the universal joint further comprises: a bearing cup 4 positioned in the aperture; a retention member 14 disposed in the annular groove; and a spacer 13 disposed in the aperture in the space below the annular groove. Figs. 1 & 2 show the outer circumference of the spacer 13 is a laterally extending rim. Figs. 1 & 2 show the portion of the aperture’s inner surface engaged by the spacer 13 is an annular seat.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed Oct 28, 2005 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Girquis fails to show the claimed invention because the space in which the spacer 13 rests is not formed by the “removal” of stake grooves. However, the

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argument is unpersuasive since the patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the claim is the same as a product of the prior art (i.e. Girquis), the claim is unpatentable." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (571) 272-7077. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 7:00 pm with alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Greg Binda
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679